OCTOBER COVEY COUNT DATA SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS

- Select listening points that are on ridge tops, and away from noise (traffic, livestock, trees, standing corn, etc.).
- To avoid counting the same covey from different points, separate points by at least 1,100 yards. On average, quail calls can be heard about 547 yards away.
- Plan to complete your survey during the month of October.
- Arrive at your listening points 20 to 45 minutes before sunrise.
- Collect data only on calm, clear days with a stable or rising barometer. Fog is okay, but realize it causes whistling to carry farther than normal.
- Count each covey heard, but be careful not to double count a covey that has more than one bird whistling and/or repeated calling by a single bird.
- Put covey locations on a map or aerial photo to keep track of habitats used and covey locations.

LOCATION _____ OBSERVER _____ YEAR _____

- If possible, complete the survey multiple times (3 surveys per listening point is adequate).
- Use the figure from the adjusted covey estimate* when averaging multiple survey points.

| | Listening Location | No. of | |
|------|-----------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Date | Location | Coveys | Weather and Notes |
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*Adjusted Covey Estimate: There may be more coveys on your property than you actually hear. Why? Covey calling is a social behavior. A covey is more likely to call when it hears another covey; it's less likely to call when it doesn't hear another covey. To study this behavior, researchers used field experiments to compare the number of coveys surveyors heard to the total number of coveys known to be in a study area. They found that surveyors heard fewer coveys than were actually there. From this data, they developed simple calculations that you can use after your survey to adjust the number of coveys heard to more accurately reflect how many coveys are on your propery.

If only 1 covey is heard, divide 1 by 0.53; for 2 coveys, divide by 0.85; for 3-4 coveys, divide by 0.87; and if 5 or more coveys are heard, divide by 0.94.

For example, for 1 covey heard, divide by 0.53 to yield adjusted count of 1.9 coveys; for 8 coveys heard, divide by 0.94 to yield adjusted count of 8.5 coveys.